

# PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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(71)Applicant : SHARP CORP

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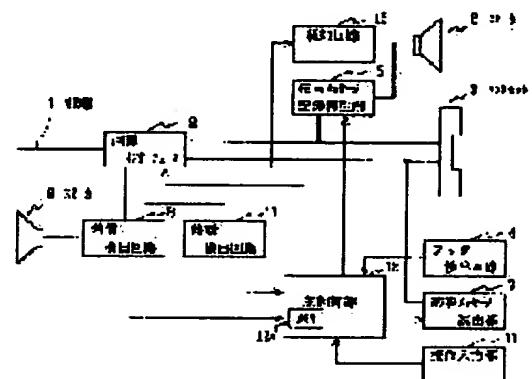
(72)Inventor : MATSUURA HIROSHI

## (54) AUTOMATIC ANSWERING TELEPHONE SET

### (57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To prevent an unreproduced message recorded in an automatic answering telephone set from being erroneously erased.

CONSTITUTION: A main control part 12 sets information for indicating an unreproduced state to a memory 12a based on the recording of a message arriving from a telephone line 1 and sets the information for indicating a reproduced state instead of the information for indicating the unreproduced state set in the memory 12a based on the reproduction of the message. Then, when the erasure of the message is instructed by the operation of the erasing button of an operation input part 11, the message recorded in a message recording and reproducing part 5 is erased when the information set in the memory 12a indicates the reproduced state, the message is not erased when the information set in the memory 12a indicates the unreproduced state and thus, the erasure of the unreproduced message is prevented.



## LEGAL STATUS

[Date of request for examination] 24.07.1998

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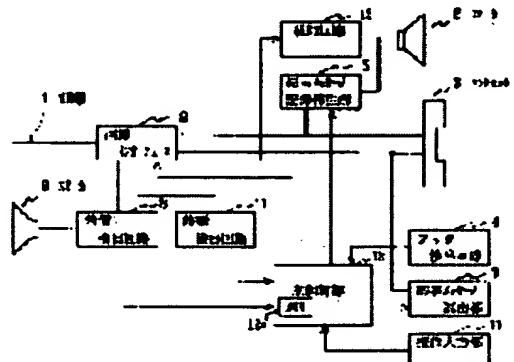
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CLAIMS

## [Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] While recording the message message which catches the telephone line based on the call origination signal which comes from the telephone line, sends out a response message, and comes from the telephone line after that The recorded message message concerned is set to an answering machine machine eliminable to arbitration. A non-reproduced setting means to set up the message message concerned with un-reproducing based on record of the message message which comes from the telephone line, A reproduced setting means to set up the message message concerned as finishing [ playback ] based on un-reproducing and playback of the set-up message message with this setting means, The answering machine machine characterized by establishing the control means which asks for the propriety of message elimination based on the established state by this reproduced setting means and the above-mentioned non-reproduced setting means, and controls message message elimination based on the result.

[Claim 2] The answering machine machine according to claim 1 characterized by establishing an information means to report the propriety of message elimination called for by the above-mentioned control means.

[Claim 3] The above-mentioned control means is an answering machine machine according to claim 1 or 2 characterized by making elimination actuation perform after reproducing the message message concerned, when the erase command of the message message judged that message elimination is no is made.

[Claim 4] While recording the message message which catches the telephone line based on the call origination signal which comes from the telephone line, sends out a response message, and comes from the telephone line after that The recorded message message concerned is set to an answering machine machine eliminable to arbitration. A non-reproduced setting means to set up the message message concerned with un-reproducing based on record of the message message which comes from the telephone line, A reproduced setting means to set up the message message concerned as finishing [ playback ] based on un-reproducing and playback of the set-up message message with this setting means, An established-state storage means to memorize the established state by the above-mentioned non-reproduced setting means and the reproduced setting means corresponding to two or more message messages which were able to be divided for every arrival, The answering machine machine characterized by establishing the control means which asks for the propriety of message elimination to the message message divided for every arrival based on the established state memorized by this established-state storage means, and controls message message elimination based on the result.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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## [Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Industrial Application] This invention relates to the answering machine machine in which arbitration elimination of a message message is possible.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] Conventionally based on the call origination signal which comes from the telephone line, catch the telephone line, and a response message is sent out. As an answering machine machine which records the message message which comes from the telephone line after that Many semiconductor memory which a magnetic tape or semiconductor memory is used as a record medium which records a message message, and there is no mechanical wear by the increment in an operating capacity, reduction of cost, etc. recently, and the access time does not require in record playback is used.

[0003] And since a message message was not recorded on a target one by one like a magnetic tape in the answering machine machine which used such semiconductor memory as a record medium but a message message was divided by addressing regardless of the record sequence of a message message, it was possible to have performed preservation/elimination of only the message message of arbitration.

[0004]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, since it can eliminate with equipment conventionally [ above-mentioned ] regardless of playback / un-reproducing in case the message message memorized to semiconductor memory is eliminated, [ of the message message to eliminate ] While there is a trouble of eliminating accidentally the message message which the user is not hearing once, eliminating the important message message which requires urgency in connection with it and a quick action becoming impossible There was a trouble of also giving displeasure to the partner who sent the message message.

[0005] This invention aims at offering the answering machine machine which can prevent eliminating a non-reproduced message message accidentally.

[0006]

[Means for Solving the Problem] In order to attain the above-mentioned purpose, invention according to claim 1 While recording the message message which catches the telephone line based on the call origination signal which comes from the telephone line, sends out a response message, and comes from the telephone line after that The recorded message message concerned is set to an answering machine machine eliminable to arbitration. A non-reproduced setting means to set up the message message concerned with un-reproducing based on record of the message message which comes from the telephone line. A reproduced setting means to set up the message message concerned as finishing [ playback ] based on un-reproducing and playback of the set-up message message with this setting means. It asks for the propriety of message elimination based on the established state by this reproduced setting means and the above-mentioned non-reproduced setting means, and the control means which controls message message elimination based on the result is established.

[0007] Invention according to claim 2 establishes an information means to report the propriety of message elimination called for by the above-mentioned control means.

[0008] Elimination actuation is made to perform after the above-mentioned control means reproduces [ invention / according to claim 3 ] the message message concerned, when the erase command of the

message message by which message elimination was judged to be no is made.

[0009] While recording the message message which invention according to claim 4 catches the telephone line based on the call origination signal which comes from the telephone line, sends out a response message, and comes from the telephone line after that The recorded message message concerned is set to an answering machine machine eliminable to arbitration. A non-reproduced setting means to set up the message message concerned with un-reproducing based on record of the message message which comes from the telephone line, A reproduced setting means to set up the message message concerned as finishing [ playback ] based on un-reproducing and playback of the set-up message message with this setting means, An established-state storage means to memorize the established state by the above-mentioned non-reproduced setting means and the reproduced setting means corresponding to two or more message messages which were able to be divided for every arrival, It asks for the propriety of message elimination to the message message divided for every arrival based on the established state memorized by this established-state storage means, and the control means which controls message message elimination based on the result is established.

[0010]

[Function] Therefore, while setting up the message message concerned with un-reproducing based on record of the message message at which a non-reproduced setting means arrives from the telephone line according to invention according to claim 1, when a message message is reproduced, a reproduced setting means sets up as finishing [ playback of the established state of the message message concerned ]. And when the erase command of a message message is made, it asks for the propriety of message elimination based on whether a message message is in the condition of not reproducing, or it is in the condition of reproducing and message elimination is judged to be good, Elimination of a non-reproduced message message can be prevented by making elimination actuation of a message message perform, and not making elimination actuation of a message message perform, when it is judged that message elimination is no.

[0011] When the erase command of the message message of arbitration is made, the established state to the message message can be read from an established-state storage means, a control means can ask for the propriety of message elimination based on the read established state, and an information means can make a user recognize playback / condition of not reproducing of a message message, by [ the ] reporting outside the propriety of message elimination for which it asked according to invention according to claim 2.

[0012] When the erase command of the message message of arbitration is made according to invention according to claim 3, When the established state to the message message was read from the established-state storage means, and a control means asks for the propriety of message elimination based on the read established state and is judged that message elimination is possible, When it is judged that elimination actuation of the message message concerned is made to perform, and message \*\*\*\*\* is no, When the message message concerned is reproduced and the playback is completed, while being able to prevent elimination of a non-reproduced message message by performing elimination actuation of the message message concerned After reproducing the message message which is not eliminable, the time and effort of actuation of making the erase command of the message message concerned perform anew can be saved.

[0013] While according to invention according to claim 4 setting up the message message concerned with un-reproducing based on record of the message message at which a non-reproduced setting means arrives from the telephone line and memorizing the established state for an established-state storage means, when a message message is reproduced, a reproduced setting means sets up as finishing [ playback of the established state of the message message concerned ], and the established state is memorized to an established-state storage means. And when the erase command of the message message of arbitration is made, the established state to the message message is read from an established-state storage means. When a control means asks for the propriety of message elimination based on the read established state and is judged that message elimination is possible, Elimination of a non-reproduced message message can be prevented to the message message for every arrival-of-the-mail unit by making elimination actuation of the message message concerned perform, and not making elimination actuation of the message message concerned perform, when it is judged that message elimination is no.

[0014]

[Example] Hereafter, the example of this invention is explained to a detail with reference to a drawing.  
[0015] The outline functional block diagram and drawing 2 which show the electric configuration of the answering machine machine whose drawing 1 is one example of this invention are a flow chart which shows control of record playback actuation of the message message in this answering machine machine.  
[0016] The telephone line connected with the other party telephone in drawing 1 through the exchange which 1 does not illustrate, The circuit interface which forms a message path with the other party telephone connected through the telephone line 1 caught while 2 performed prehension/disconnection control of the telephone line 1, The hand set which consists of the microphone and loudspeaker which perform the message with the other party by which message connection of 3 was made with the circuit interface 2, and 4 are hook detectors which detect on hook/OFUFUKKU by installation / actuation on \*\* of a hand set 3.

[0017] The message message record playback section which 5 reproduces in the message message which is a message message from the other party by which message connection was made with the circuit interface 2, and which recorded while recording, the loudspeaker there is voice in 6 about the message message in which record playback was carried out by the message message record playback section 5, and carry out sound emission outside, and 7 are the response message read-out section read the response message send out to the other party by which message connection was made with the circuit interface 2.

[0018] The loudspeaker which carries out sound emission of the signal for making it recognize that the arrival-of-the-mail detector which detects the terminating signal with which 8 comes from the telephone line 1, and 9 had arrival of the mail based on the detecting signal from the arrival-of-the-mail detector 8, and 10 are clear back detectors which detect the clearing signal which comes from the telephone line 1.

[0019] The memory 12 a the actuation input section which consists of an elimination key to which elimination of the ten key into which 11 inputs the telephone number of the other party telephone, the playback key to which playback of a message message is made to perform, and a message message makes perform, and 12 are the main-control section become from the CPU, the ROM, the RAM, the I/O, etc. answer to actuation by the actuation input section 11, and control each part, and memorize reproduced/the condition do not reproduce of a message message be constituted.

[0020] When 13 tends to eliminate a non-reproduced message message, it is an information circuit which outputs an error sound or a message etc. which carries out sound emission, and sound emission of an error sound or a message outputted from this information circuit 13 is carried out outside by the loudspeaker 6 as voice.

[0021] In addition, the non-reproduced setting means, the reproduced setting means, and the control means are constituted by the main control section 12.

[0022] In the answering machine machine constituted as mentioned above, the actuation when being set as housesitting mode is explained.

[0023] When are set as housesitting mode and the arrival-of-the-mail detector 8 detects arrival of the terminating signal more than the count of predetermined, while the main control section 12 controls the circuit interface 2 and makes the telephone line 1 catch, it sends out to the telephone line 1 which read the response message and was caught with the circuit interface 2 from the response message read-out section 7. And based on termination of that response message, the message message record playback section 5 is controlled, and it considers as a recordable condition, and while making the message message from the other party which comes from the telephone line 1 record on this message message record playback section 5, sound emission is carried out outside as a sound signal by the loudspeaker 6.

[0024] And when the time amount set up beforehand passes, or when the clearing signal which comes from the telephone line 1 by the clear back detector 10 is detected, while the main control section 12 controls the message message record playback section 5 and ends record of a message message It is remembered to memory 12a that the message message which controlled the circuit interface 2, and opened the telephone line 1, and was recorded on the message message record playback section 5 is in the condition of not reproducing.

[0025] And in the condition that did in this way and the message message was recorded on the message message record playback section 5, the depression, then the main control section 12 of a playback key of the actuation input section 11 control the message message record playback section 5, reproduce a

non-reproduced message message, and carry out sound emission of this reproduced message message outside as a sound signal by the loudspeaker 6.

[0026] And when playback of a message message is completed, it is remembered to memory 12a that the message message recorded on the message message record playback section 5 is in the condition of reproducing by memorizing the signal with which it changes into the information showing the condition memorized by memory 12a of not reproducing, and the condition of reproducing is expressed.

[0027] Moreover, it sets in the condition that the message message was recorded on the message message record playback section 5. When the depression of the elimination key of the actuation input section 11 is carried out and it is what the information with which the main control section 12 answered actuation by the actuation input section 11, and was remembered to be by memory 12a is read, and the read information expresses to the condition of reproducing, Package elimination of the message message recorded on the message message record playback section 5 is carried out, without making the message message recorded on the message message record playback section 5 eliminate, when it is a thing showing a \*\*\*\* playback condition, an information circuit is controlled and for example, the error sound or "message is not reproduced. Messages, such as ", are reproduced and sound emission of this reproduced error sound or message is carried out outside as a sound signal by the loudspeaker 6.

[0028] In addition, although this example explained information with voice as an approach of reporting the elimination failure of this message message, it is not limited to this and a display is prepared, for example, character representation is carried out to this display, and it may be made to perform information by viewing, and may be made to perform the both sides of information with voice, and the information by viewing.

[0029] Moreover, "message message is not reproduced, in case you may make it reproduce a non-reproduced message message automatically and the elimination failure of a message message is reported, after reporting the elimination failure of this message message. Does it reproduce and eliminate? Messages, such as ", are reproduced and a user's adoption may be made to perform whether the message message after playback of a non-reproduced message message is eliminated.

[0030] Next, record / playback / elimination actuation of the above message messages is explained based on the flow chart shown in drawing 2.

[0031] By being set as housesitting mode, this flow chart is started and it shifts to step F1. The condition of a hand set 3 is in a condition on hook at step F1, or it is judged based on the detecting signal from the hook detector 4. When it is judged that it is in a condition on hook, it shifts to step F2, and when it is judged that it is not in a condition on hook, it shifts to step F19 and shifts to line wire talk mode here, and this flow chart is completed.

[0032] It is judged whether the terminating signal which comes from the telephone line 1 by the arrival-of-the-mail detector 8 was detected, at step F2, when it is judged that the terminating signal was detected, it shifts to step F3, and when it is judged that the terminating signal is not detected, it shifts to step F10.

[0033] When it is judged that the terminating signal detected by step F2 at step F3 is judged more than in the count of predetermined, and is more than a count of predetermined, it shifts to step F4, and when it is judged that it is not more than a count of predetermined, it shifts to step F1, and the above-mentioned decision actuation is repeated.

[0034] At step F4, the telephone line 1 is made to catch with the circuit interface 2, and it shifts to step F5, after sending out to the telephone line 1 which read the response message and was caught at step F4 from the response message read-out section 7 at step F5, it shifts to step F6 and record of the message message by the message message record playback section 5 is started here, and it shifts to step F7.

[0035] It is judged whether the clearing signal which comes from the telephone line 1 by the clear back detector 10 was detected by step F7, this decision actuation is repeated until it is judged that the clearing signal was detected, and when it is judged that the clearing signal was detected, it shifts to step F8.

[0036] At step F8, while terminating record of the message message by the message message record playback section 5, the telephone line 1 is made to open wide with the circuit interface 2, and it shifts to step F9, and after setting the information which expresses with step F9 the condition of not reproducing to memory 12a, this flow chart is ended.

[0037] When it is judged on the other hand that there is no arrival of the mail in step F2 and it shifts to step F10, at step F10, when it is judged whether the playback carbon button of the actuation input section 11 was operated and it is judged that the playback carbon button was operated, it shifts to step F11, and when it is judged that the playback carbon button is not operated, it shifts to step F13.

[0038] After setting the information which reproduces the message message recorded on the message message record playback section 5, shifts to step F14, changes into the information which expresses with step F14 the condition of not reproducing to memory 12a, and expresses with step F11 the condition of reproducing, this flow chart is ended.

[0039] Moreover, when it is judged that it shifts to step F14, and the elimination carbon button is not operated when it is judged whether the elimination carbon button of the actuation input section 11 was operated at step F13 and it is judged that the elimination carbon button was operated, after processing others at step F18, this flow chart is ended.

[0040] It is judged whether it is what the information set to memory 12a expresses with step F14 to the condition of reproducing. When it is judged that the condition of not reproducing is expressed without shifting to step F17 and expressing the condition of reproducing when it is judged that the condition of reproducing is expressed, It shifts to step F15, and at step F15, after making the information circuit 13 drive and making the sound emission of an error sound or the predetermined message carry out outside, the message message which shifted to step F16 and was recorded on the message message record playback section 5 here is reproduced, and it shifts to step F17.

[0041] And at step F17, when it shifts to step F17 through actuation of the decision actuation by step F14 or step F15, and step F16, after making the message message currently recorded on the message message record playback section 5 eliminate, this flow chart is ended.

[0042] Therefore, according to the above record / playback / elimination actuation, elimination which the non-reproduced message message mistook can be prevented. In addition, it can carry out, when it differs from the time of housesitting mode about playback/elimination actuation of a message message, and as actuation at this time, elimination actuation of a message message is started for playback actuation of a message message from step 13 more nearly again than step F10.

[0043] In addition, in order to memorize reproduced/the information that it does not reproduce on a message message, for every arrival-of-the-mail unit and to eliminate the message message for every arrival-of-the-mail unit based on the information When it is remembered to memory 12a that the message message recorded on the message message record playback section 5 is in the condition of not reproducing. While making the address address or index number of a message message recorded on the message message record playback section 5 in this arrival memorize and memorizing the information showing the address address or index number, then condition of not reproducing which were memorized In case a message message is reproduced, the signal with which it changes into the information showing the condition memorized with the reproduced address address or index number of a message message in memory 12a of not reproducing, and the condition of reproducing is expressed is memorized. And it is attained by determining the propriety of elimination based on the information showing reproduced/the condition do not reproduce which searched the index number memorized by memory 12a with the input of the index number of the message message eliminated by actuation of the ten key of the actuation input section 12, and was memorized with the index number in agreement, in case a message message is eliminated.

[0044]

[Effect of the Invention] As mentioned above, when according to invention according to claim 1 the erase command of a message message is made and message elimination of the message message is judged to be good, Since elimination of a non-reproduced message message can be prevented by making elimination actuation of a message message perform, and not making elimination actuation of a message message perform when it is judged that message elimination is no, It can prevent that a quick action becomes impossible by elimination which the important message message which requires the urgency which has not been reproduced once mistook, or giving displeasure to the partner who sent a message message which requires a telephone by return.

[0045] When the erase command of the message message of arbitration is made, while being able to make a user recognize playback / condition of not reproducing of a message message, by reporting the propriety of the message message concerned outside according to invention according to claim 2, the

user when not being eliminable can be made to correspond smoothly.

[0046] When according to invention according to claim 3 the erase command of the message message of arbitration is made and message elimination of the message message is judged to be good, When it is judged that elimination actuation of the message message concerned is made to perform, and message elimination is no, By performing elimination actuation of the message message concerned, when the message message concerned is reproduced and the playback is completed Without requiring complicated actuation of a user, since the time and effort of actuation of making the erase command of the message message concerned perform anew can be saved after reproducing the message message which is not eliminable, a non-reproduced message message can be reproduced and it can be made to eliminate.

[0047] When according to invention according to claim 4 the erase command of the message message of arbitration is made and message elimination of the message message is judged to be good, Since elimination of a non-reproduced message message can be prevented by making elimination actuation of the message message concerned perform, and not making elimination actuation of the message message concerned perform when it is judged that message elimination is no, It says [ that a quick action becomes impossible by elimination which the important message message which requires the urgency which has not been reproduced once mistook ], It can prevent giving displeasure to the partner who sent a message message which requires a telephone by return. And since the propriety of message elimination is memorized for every arrival-of-the-mail unit, also when playback of a message message is halfway, the message message of arbitration can be eliminated, and the storage capacity of a message message can be used effectively.

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**TECHNICAL FIELD**

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**[Industrial Application]** This invention relates to the answering machine machine in which arbitration elimination of a message message is possible.

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**PRIOR ART**

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**[Description of the Prior Art]** Conventionally based on the call origination signal which comes from the telephone line, catch the telephone line, and a response message is sent out. As an answering machine machine which records the message message which comes from the telephone line after that Many semiconductor memory which a magnetic tape or semiconductor memory is used as a record medium which records a message message, and there is no mechanical wear by the increment in an operating capacity, reduction of cost, etc. recently, and the access time does not require in record playback is used.

**[0003]** And since a message message was not recorded on a target one by one like a magnetic tape in the answering machine machine which used such semiconductor memory as a record medium but a message message was divided by addressing regardless of the record sequence of a message message, it was possible to have performed preservation/elimination of only the message message of arbitration.

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**EFFECT OF THE INVENTION**

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[Effect of the Invention] As mentioned above, when according to invention according to claim 1 the erase command of a message message is made and message elimination of the message message is judged to be good, Since elimination of a non-reproduced message message can be prevented by making elimination actuation of a message message perform, and not making elimination actuation of a message message perform when it is judged that message elimination is no, It can prevent that a quick action becomes impossible by elimination which the important message message which requires the urgency which has not been reproduced once mistook, or giving displeasure to the partner who sent a message message which requires a telephone by return.

[0045] When the erase command of the message message of arbitration is made, while being able to make a user recognize playback / condition of not reproducing of a message message, by reporting the propriety of the message message concerned outside according to invention according to claim 2, the user when not being eliminable can be made to correspond smoothly.

[0046] When according to invention according to claim 3 the erase command of the message message of arbitration is made and message elimination of the message message is judged to be good, When it is judged that elimination actuation of the message message concerned is made to perform, and message elimination is no, By performing elimination actuation of the message message concerned, when the message message concerned is reproduced and the playback is completed Without requiring complicated actuation of a user, since the time and effort of actuation of making the erase command of the message message concerned perform anew can be saved after reproducing the message message which is not eliminable, a non-reproduced message message can be reproduced and it can be made to eliminate.

[0047] When according to invention according to claim 4 the erase command of the message message of arbitration is made and message elimination of the message message is judged to be good, Since elimination of a non-reproduced message message can be prevented by making elimination actuation of the message message concerned perform, and not making elimination actuation of the message message concerned perform when it is judged that message elimination is no, It says [ that a quick action becomes impossible by elimination which the important message message which requires the urgency which has not been reproduced once mistook ], It can prevent giving displeasure to the partner who sent a message message which requires a telephone by return. And since the propriety of message elimination is memorized for every arrival-of-the-mail unit, also when playback of a message message is halfway, the message message of arbitration can be eliminated, and the storage capacity of a message message can be used effectively.

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**TECHNICAL PROBLEM**

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[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, since it can eliminate with equipment conventionally [ above-mentioned ] regardless of playback / un-reproducing in case the message message memorized to semiconductor memory is eliminated, [ of the message message to eliminate ] While there is a trouble of eliminating accidentally the message message which the user is not hearing once, eliminating the important message message which requires urgency in connection with it and a quick action becoming impossible There was a trouble of also giving displeasure to the partner who sent the message message. [0005] This invention aims at offering the answering machine machine which can prevent eliminating a non-reproduced message message accidentally.

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**MEANS**

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[Means for Solving the Problem] In order to attain the above-mentioned purpose, invention according to claim 1 While recording the message message which catches the telephone line based on the call origination signal which comes from the telephone line, sends out a response message, and comes from the telephone line after that The recorded message message concerned is set to an answering machine machine eliminable to arbitration. A non-reproduced setting means to set up the message message concerned with un-reproducing based on record of the message message which comes from the telephone line. A reproduced setting means to set up the message message concerned as finishing [ playback ] based on un-reproducing and playback of the set-up message message with this setting means. It asks for the propriety of message elimination based on the established state by this reproduced setting means and the above-mentioned non-reproduced setting means, and the control means which controls message message elimination based on the result is established.

[0007] Invention according to claim 2 establishes an information means to report the propriety of message elimination called for by the above-mentioned control means.

[0008] Elimination actuation is made to perform after the above-mentioned control means reproduces [ invention / according to claim 3 ] the message message concerned, when the erase command of the message message by which message elimination was judged to be no is made.

[0009] While recording the message message which invention according to claim 4 catches the telephone line based on the call origination signal which comes from the telephone line, sends out a response message, and comes from the telephone line after that The recorded message message concerned is set to an answering machine machine eliminable to arbitration. A non-reproduced setting means to set up the message message concerned with un-reproducing based on record of the message message which comes from the telephone line. A reproduced setting means to set up the message message concerned as finishing [ playback ] based on un-reproducing and playback of the set-up message message with this setting means. An established-state storage means to memorize the established state by the above-mentioned non-reproduced setting means and the reproduced setting means corresponding to two or more message messages which were able to be divided for every arrival. It asks for the propriety of message elimination to the message message divided for every arrival based on the established state memorized by this established-state storage means, and the control means which controls message message elimination based on the result is established.

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**OPERATION**

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[Function] Therefore, while setting up the message message concerned with un-reproducing based on record of the message message at which a non-reproduced setting means arrives from the telephone line according to invention according to claim 1, when a message message is reproduced, a reproduced setting means sets up as finishing [ playback of the established state of the message message concerned ]. And when the erase command of a message message is made, it asks for the propriety of message elimination based on whether a message message is in the condition of not reproducing, or it is in the condition of reproducing and message elimination is judged to be good, Elimination of a non-reproduced message message can be prevented by making elimination actuation of a message message perform, and not making elimination actuation of a message message perform, when it is judged that message elimination is no.

[0011] When the erase command of the message message of arbitration is made, the established state to the message message can be read from an established-state storage means, a control means can ask for the propriety of message elimination based on the read established state, and an information means can make a user recognize playback / condition of not reproducing of a message message, by [ the ] reporting outside the propriety of message elimination for which it asked according to invention according to claim 2.

[0012] When the erase command of the message message of arbitration is made according to invention according to claim 3, When the established state to the message message was read from the established-state storage means, and a control means asks for the propriety of message elimination based on the read established state and is judged that message elimination is possible, When it is judged that elimination actuation of the message message concerned is made to perform, and message \*\*\*\*\* is no, When the message message concerned is reproduced and the playback is completed, while being able to prevent elimination of a non-reproduced message message by performing elimination actuation of the message message concerned After reproducing the message message which is not eliminable, the time and effort of actuation of making the erase command of the message message concerned perform anew can be saved.

[0013] While according to invention according to claim 4 setting up the message message concerned with un-reproducing based on record of the message message at which a non-reproduced setting means arrives from the telephone line and memorizing the established state for an established-state storage means, when a message message is reproduced, a reproduced setting means sets up as finishing [ playback of the established state of the message message concerned ], and the established state is memorized to an established-state storage means. And when the erase command of the message message of arbitration is made, the established state to the message message is read from an established-state storage means. When a control means asks for the propriety of message elimination based on the read established state and is judged that message elimination is possible, Elimination of a non-reproduced message message can be prevented to the message message for every arrival-of-the-mail unit by making elimination actuation of the message message concerned perform, and not making elimination actuation of the message message concerned perform, when it is judged that message elimination is no.

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**EXAMPLE**

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[Example] Hereafter, the example of this invention is explained to a detail with reference to a drawing. [0015] The outline functional block diagram and drawing 2 which show the electric configuration of the answering machine machine whose drawing 1 is one example of this invention are a flow chart which shows control of record playback actuation of the message message in this answering machine machine. [0016] The telephone line connected with the other party telephone in drawing 1 through the exchange which 1 does not illustrate, The circuit interface which forms a message path with the other party telephone connected through the telephone line 1 caught while 2 performed prehension/disconnection control of the telephone line 1, The hand set which consists of the microphone and loudspeaker which perform the message with the other party by which message connection of 3 was made with the circuit interface 2, and 4 are hook detectors which detect on hook/OFUFUKKU by installation / actuation on \*\* of a hand set 3.

[0017] The message message record playback section which 5 reproduces in the message message which is a message message from the other party by which message connection was made with the circuit interface 2, and which recorded while recording, the loudspeaker there is voice in 6 about the message message in which record playback was carried out by the message message record playback section 5, and carry out sound emission outside, and 7 are the response message read-out section read the response message send out to the other party by which message connection was made with the circuit interface 2.

[0018] The loudspeaker which carries out sound emission of the signal for making it recognize that the arrival-of-the-mail detector which detects the terminating signal with which 8 comes from the telephone line 1, and 9 had arrival of the mail based on the detecting signal from the arrival-of-the-mail detector 8, and 10 are clear back detectors which detect the clearing signal which comes from the telephone line 1.

[0019] The memory 12 a the actuation input section which consists of an elimination key to which elimination of the ten key into which 11 inputs the telephone number of the other party telephone, the playback key to which playback of a message message is made to perform, and a message message makes perform, and 12 are the main-control section become from the CPU, the ROM, the RAM, the I/O, etc. answer to actuation by the actuation input section 11, and control each part, and memorize reproduced/the condition do not reproduce of a message message be constituted.

[0020] When 13 tends to eliminate a non-reproduced message message, it is an information circuit which outputs an error sound or a message etc. which carries out sound emission, and sound emission of an error sound or a message outputted from this information circuit 13 is carried out outside by the loudspeaker 6 as voice.

[0021] In addition, the non-reproduced setting means, the reproduced setting means, and the control means are constituted by the main control section 12.

[0022] In the answering machine machine constituted as mentioned above, the actuation when being set as housesitting mode is explained.

[0023] When are set as housesitting mode and the arrival-of-the-mail detector 8 detects arrival of the terminating signal more than the count of predetermined, while the main control section 12 controls the circuit interface 2 and makes the telephone line 1 catch, it sends out to the telephone line 1 which read the response message and was caught with the circuit interface 2 from the response message read-out section 7. And based on termination of that response message, the message message record playback

section 5 is controlled, and it considers as a recordable condition, and while making the message message from the other party which comes from the telephone line 1 record on this message message record playback section 5, sound emission is carried out outside as a sound signal by the loudspeaker 6. [0024] And when the time amount set up beforehand passes, or when the clearing signal which comes from the telephone line 1 by the clear back detector 10 is detected, while the main control section 12 controls the message message record playback section 5 and ends record of a message message It is remembered to memory 12a that the message message which controlled the circuit interface 2, and opened the telephone line 1, and was recorded on the message message record playback section 5 is in the condition of not reproducing.

[0025] And in the condition that did in this way and the message message was recorded on the message message record playback section 5, the depression, then the main control section 12 of a playback key of the actuation input section 11 control the message message record playback section 5, reproduce a non-reproduced message message, and carry out sound emission of this reproduced message message outside as a sound signal by the loudspeaker 6.

[0026] And when playback of a message message is completed, it is remembered to memory 12a that the message message recorded on the message message record playback section 5 is in the condition of reproducing by memorizing the signal with which it changes into the information showing the condition memorized by memory 12a of not reproducing, and the condition of reproducing is expressed.

[0027] Moreover, it sets in the condition that the message message was recorded on the message message record playback section 5. When the depression of the elimination key of the actuation input section 11 is carried out and it is what the information with which the main control section 12 answered actuation by the actuation input section 11, and was remembered to be by memory 12a is read, and the read information expresses to the condition of reproducing. Package elimination of the message message recorded on the message message record playback section 5 is carried out, without making the message message recorded on the message message record playback section 5 eliminate, when it is a thing showing a \*\*\*\* playback condition, an information circuit is controlled and for example, the error sound or "message is not reproduced. Messages, such as ", are reproduced and sound emission of this reproduced error sound or message is carried out outside as a sound signal by the loudspeaker 6.

[0028] In addition, although this example explained information with voice as an approach of reporting the elimination failure of this message message, it is not limited to this and a display is prepared, for example, character representation is carried out to this display, and it may be made to perform information by viewing, and may be made to perform the both sides of information with voice, and the information by viewing.

[0029] Moreover, "message message is not reproduced, in case you may make it reproduce a non-reproduced message message automatically and the elimination failure of a message message is reported, after reporting the elimination failure of this message message. Does it reproduce and eliminate? Messages, such as ", are reproduced and a user's adoption may be made to perform whether the message message after playback of a non-reproduced message message is eliminated.

[0030] Next, record / playback / elimination actuation of the above message messages is explained based on the flow chart shown in drawing 2.

[0031] By being set as housesitting mode, this flow chart is started and it shifts to step F1. The condition of a hand set 3 is in a condition on hook at step F1, or it is judged based on the detecting signal from the hook detector 4. When it is judged that it is in a condition on hook, it shifts to step F2, and when it is judged that it is not in a condition on hook, it shifts to step F19 and shifts to line wire talk mode here, and this flow chart is completed.

[0032] It is judged whether the terminating signal which comes from the telephone line 1 by the arrival-of-the-mail detector 8 was detected, at step F2, when it is judged that the terminating signal was detected, it shifts to step F3, and when it is judged that the terminating signal is not detected, it shifts to step F10.

[0033] When it is judged that the terminating signal detected by step F2 at step F3 is judged more than in the count of predetermined, and is more than a count of predetermined, it shifts to step F4, and when it is judged that it is not more than a count of predetermined, it shifts to step F1, and the above-mentioned decision actuation is repeated.

[0034] At step F4, the telephone line 1 is made to catch with the circuit interface 2, and it shifts to step

F5, after sending out to the telephone line 1 which read the response message and was caught at step F4 from the response message read-out section 7 at step F5, it shifts to step F6 and record of the message message by the message message record playback section 5 is started here, and it shifts to step F7.

[0035] It is judged whether the clearing signal which comes from the telephone line 1 by the clear back detector 10 was detected by step F7, this decision actuation is repeated until it is judged that the clearing signal was detected, and when it is judged that the clearing signal was detected, it shifts to step F8.

[0036] At step F8, while terminating record of the message message by the message message record playback section 5, the telephone line 1 is made to open wide with the circuit interface 2, and it shifts to step F9, and after setting the information which expresses with step F9 the condition of not reproducing to memory 12a, this flow chart is ended.

[0037] When it is judged on the other hand that there is no arrival of the mail in step F2 and it shifts to step F10, at step F10, when it is judged whether the playback carbon button of the actuation input section 11 was operated and it is judged that the playback carbon button was operated, it shifts to step F11, and when it is judged that the playback carbon button is not operated, it shifts to step F13.

[0038] After setting the information which reproduces the message message recorded on the message message record playback section 5, shifts to step F14, changes into the information which expresses with step F14 the condition of not reproducing to memory 12a, and expresses with step F11 the condition of reproducing, this flow chart is ended.

[0039] Moreover, when it is judged that it shifts to step F14, and the elimination carbon button is not operated when it is judged whether the elimination carbon button of the actuation input section 11 was operated at step F13 and it is judged that the elimination carbon button was operated, after processing others at step F18, this flow chart is ended.

[0040] It is judged whether it is what the information set to memory 12a expresses with step F14 to the condition of reproducing. When it is judged that the condition of not reproducing is expressed without shifting to step F17 and expressing the condition of reproducing when it is judged that the condition of reproducing is expressed, It shifts to step F15, and at step F15, after making the information circuit 13 drive and making the sound emission of an error sound or the predetermined message carry out outside, the message message which shifted to step F16 and was recorded on the message message record playback section 5 here is reproduced, and it shifts to step F17.

[0041] And at step F17, when it shifts to step F17 through actuation of the decision actuation by step F14 or step F15, and step F16, after making the message message currently recorded on the message message record playback section 5 eliminate, this flow chart is ended.

[0042] Therefore, according to the above record / playback / elimination actuation, elimination which the non-reproduced message message mistook can be prevented. In addition, it can carry out, when it differs from the time of housesitting mode about playback/elimination actuation of a message message, and as actuation at this time, elimination actuation of a message message is started for playback actuation of a message message from step 13 more nearly again than step F10.

[0043] In addition, in order to memorize reproduced/the information that it does not reproduce on a message message, for every arrival-of-the-mail unit and to eliminate the message message for every arrival-of-the-mail unit based on the information When it is remembered to memory 12a that the message message recorded on the message message record playback section 5 is in the condition of not reproducing, While making the address address or index number of a message message recorded on the message message record playback section 5 in this arrival memorize and memorizing the information showing the address address or index number, then condition of not reproducing which were memorized In case a message message is reproduced, the signal with which it changes into the information showing the condition memorized with the reproduced address address or index number of a message message in memory 12a of not reproducing, and the condition of reproducing is expressed is memorized. And it is attained by determining the propriety of elimination based on the information showing reproduced/the condition do not reproduce which searched the index number memorized by memory 12a with the input of the index number of the message message eliminated by actuation of the ten key of the actuation input section 12, and was memorized with the index number in agreement, in case a message message is eliminated.

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**DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS**

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**[Brief Description of the Drawings]**

**[Drawing 1]** The outline functional block diagram showing the electric configuration of the answering machine machine which is one example of this invention.

**[Drawing 2]** The flow chart which shows control of record playback actuation of the message message in this answering machine machine.

**[Description of Notations]**

- 1 Telephone Line
- 2 Circuit Interface
- 3 Hand Set
- 4 Hook Detector
- 5 Message Message Record Regenerative Circuit
- 6 Loudspeaker
- 7 This Message Read-out Section to Follow
- 8 Arrival-of-the-Mail Detector
- 9 Loudspeaker
- 10 Clear Back Detector
- 11 Actuation Input Section
- 12 Main Control Section
- 13 Information Circuit

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**[Translation done.]**

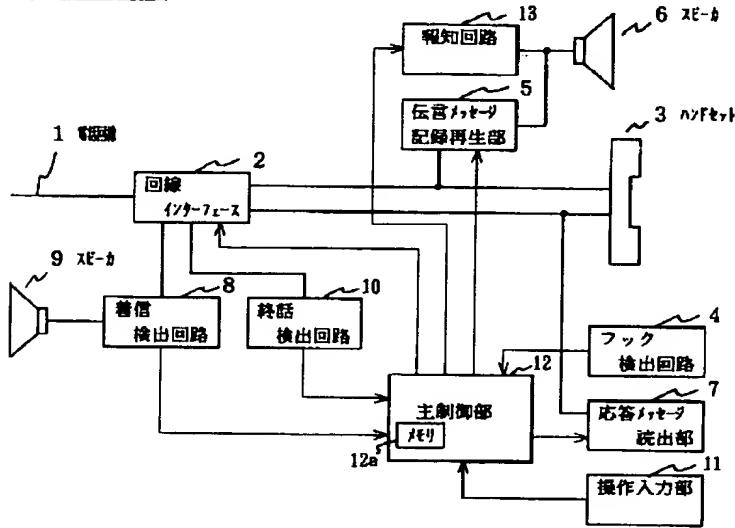
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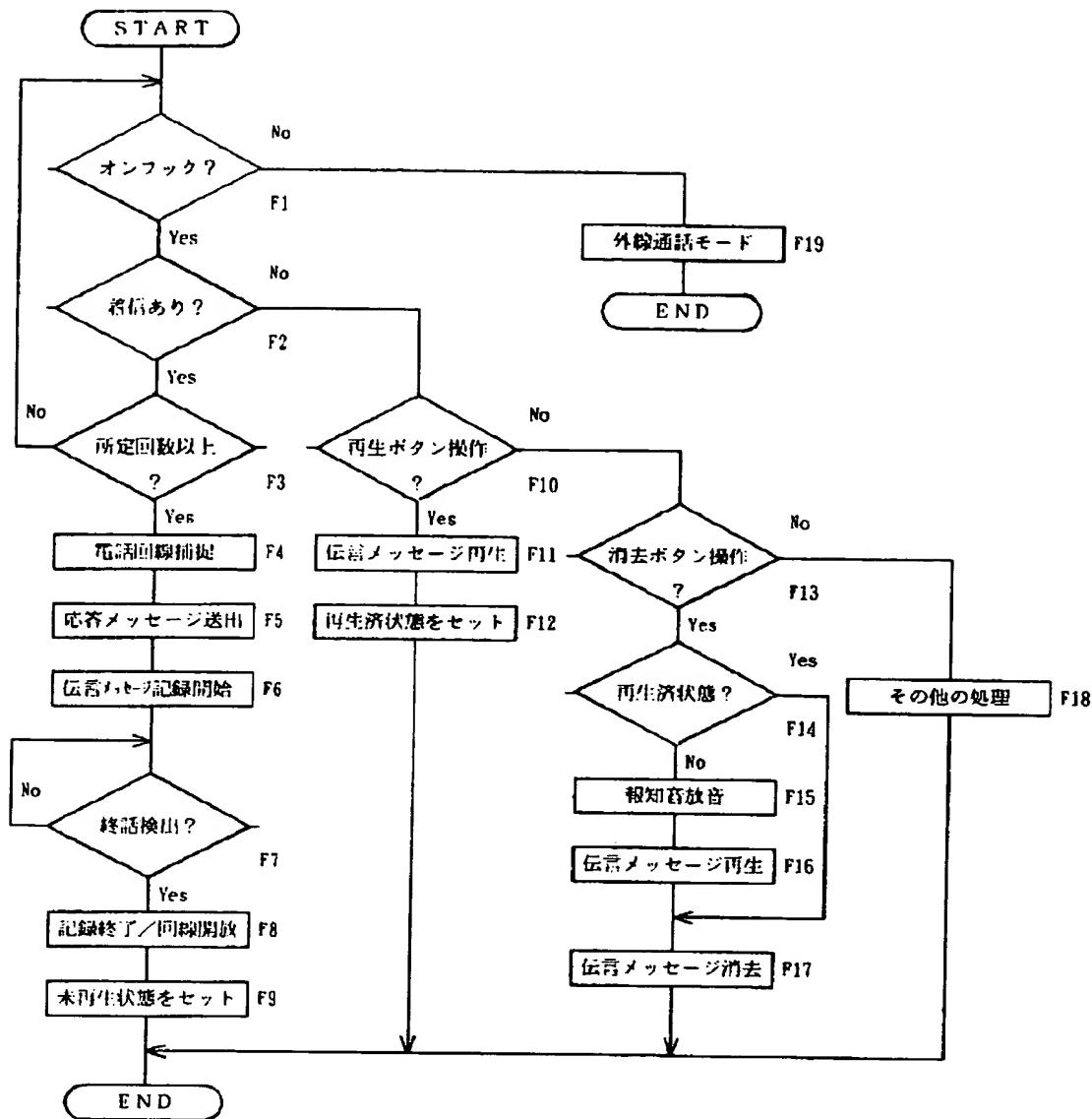
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## DRAWINGS

## [Drawing 1]



## [Drawing 2]



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